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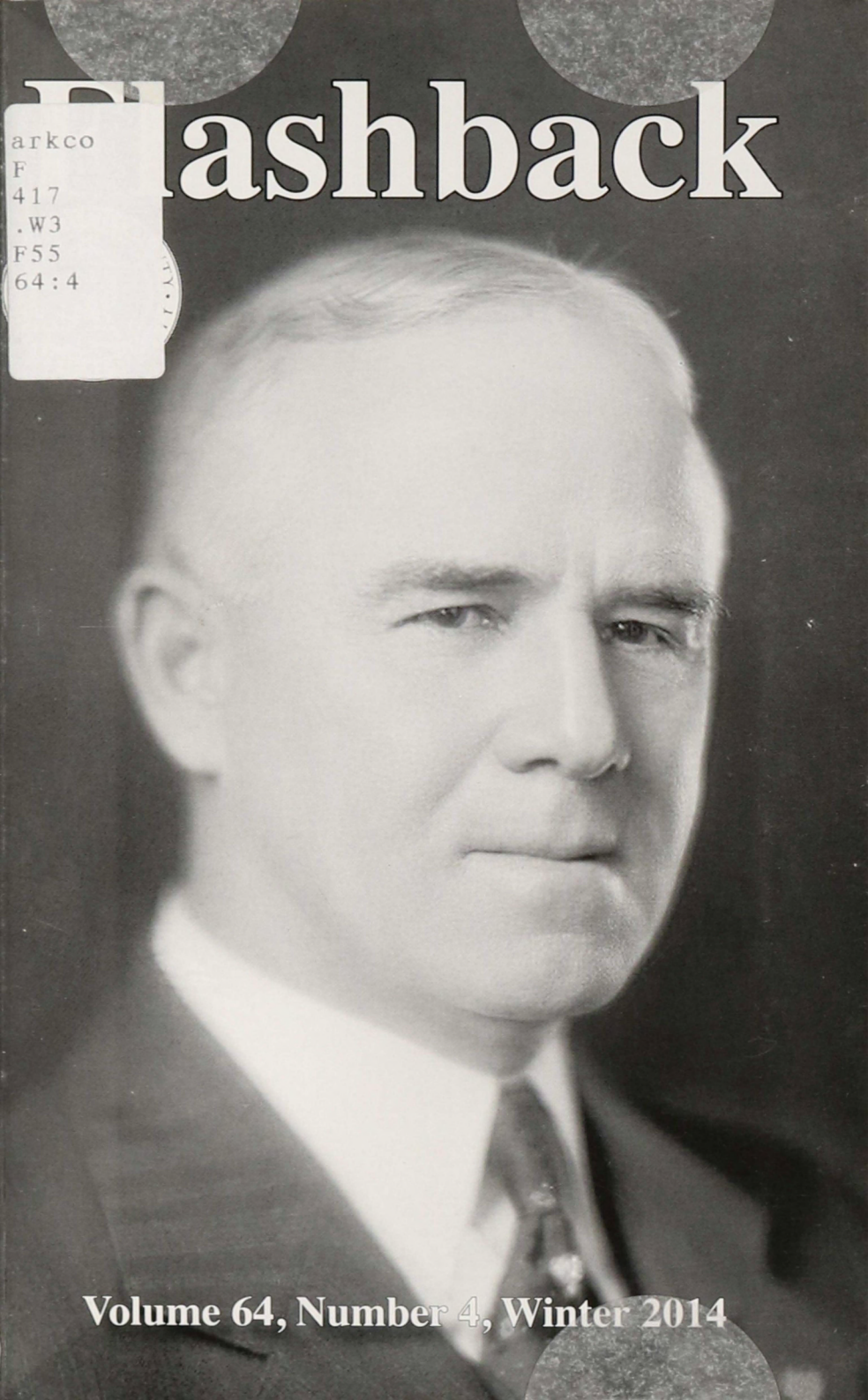

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FLASHBACK

Journal of the Washington County Historical Society

Preserving Our Past for Future Generations

Volume 64 Winter 2014 Number 4

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Claude Albert Fuller served as a prosecuting attorney for the district that included Washington County early in his career, handling the last capital murder case in which hanging was still the legal method of execution. He later served for a decade in Congress and was a leading citizen of Eureka Springs. Read more about Fuller beginning on Page 168.

Photo courtesy of Harris and Ewing Collection, Library of Congress

The Integration of the Razorback Football Team: A Panel Discussion

The Washington County Historical Society's Lecture Series Committee, then headed by Patrick Williams, organized a panel discussion about several aspects of Razorback history, including a panel discussion along with members Margaret Clark and Bob Cochran. University Libraries Sherry Gallaher, Jennifer Rae Hartman, Martha Guirl Phillips, Tim Nutt and Dean Carolyn Allen, official host.

Hoyt Purvis, president of the Washington County Historical Society, spoke about the history of Razorback sports broadcasting, now compiled in a book.

He then introduced Nate Allen, a long-time sportswriter who has covered the Arkansas Razorbacks for the *Arkansas Gazette*, the *Morning News* and most recently the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*. Allen helped organize the program on the integration of the University of Arkansas football team.

Allen recognized some of the members of the audience who had been a part of the Razorbacks during the 1970s, including Harold Horton, an assistant coach of the players; and Ruth Cohoon, who was the first athletic director of the women's teams.

ALLEN: 1973 was a very ordinary year in football, record-wise. The 1972 Razorbacks, by some quarters, were supposed to win a national championships. But things fell apart as they often do on some teams, and they went 6 and 5. So the 1973 team was a very young team and not picked to do particularly well and really didn't as far as the record was concerned, 5-5 and 1. Not a remarkable year, but in retrospect a very remarkable year.

It was certainly remarkable for me and to the four panelists

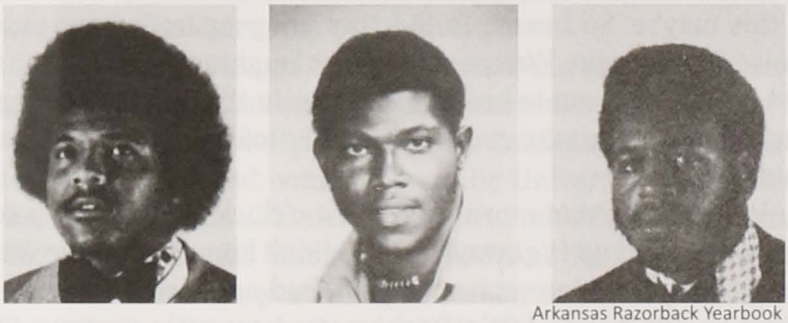
who are coming up here because every one of us came to Arkansas that year. It was also a year that, after only two, only three black scholarship players, after John Richardson had finished up in 1972, were on campus until the signing class was signed, and there were 13 signed and it really changed the culture at Arkansas for the good, and I think changed it forever. And everyone that's on this panel was a part of it. Now I'd like to introduce everyone.

Johnnie Meadors wins the best-dressed award. Johnnie was an All-Southwest Conference defensive end, lettered from 1973 to 1976, all Southwest Conference defense on the championship team in 1975, and now owns his own construction company in Haynesville, Louisiana, but still spends a lot of time in Arkansas.

Next is Brison Manor, who was a junior college transfer and played in 1973 and '74. He played in the NFL for the Denver Broncos and played in the Super Bowl, but we kind of traveled the same path. Both of us are originally from New Jersey, then went to the Midwest. Bryson went to Pratt Junior College and then came down here. Obviously it took because he never left. Even when he was playing in Denver, he had a home in Little Rock and has been in Arkansas ever since. I really thank Brison for coming up. He works as an investment counselor for First Simmons Bank in Little Rock, and I really appreciate that he would come up today.

Dennis Winston, also known as "Dirt" from his playing days. Dennis came up from Marianna, lettered 1973 through '76. Played in the NFL with the Pittsburgh Steelers, played in the Super Bowl, you played in two Super Bowls, I believe, wasn't it? [Dennis nods yes.] One of them they were victorious. [He] coached here in 1997. He made the mistake of coming here just as Danny Ford was leaving, so he didn't get to stay long because that happens in coaching. Dennis now coaches at the University of Arkansas-Pine Bluff, and we really appreciate him because they're all in staff meetings and he came up.

Then my next one should be the most honored of all because when this program was put together, they said Dean came with



Arkansas Razorback Yearbook

Johnnie Meadors, Dennis Winston and Brison Manor in the 1970s.

us and we want Dean on the program. This is Dean Weber, who was trainer. He came in 1973 and was a trainer through 2007 and is still with the Razorback Athletic Department in charge of purchasing equipment.

Again, thank all of you for coming.

I want to start off first with just, at the time, how everyone got here, and I guess I'll start with Johnnie because — I remember this and we talked about it — on your recruiting visit, the only thing whiter than the people in the stands was the snowstorm that hit during the game, and it was against SMU and Arkansas lost it. And you came back and signed with them, and you're still here today, so explain yourself. [Laughter]

MEADORS: Good evening to everyone. I first want to say that this is a privilege and honor to be here tonight, to come back to a place, to where most people in my home town thought I had lost my mind when I signed a letter of intent here. But in 1971, I had the pleasure of [knowing] someone, who at the time I did not know had graduated from the University of Arkansas. Her son and I were both on the same high school football program, and she came to practice on the Thursday afternoon and told me when I arrived at the stadium that Friday to bring some clothes with me for the weekend, that I was going to spend the weekend with her son.

So, of course, me being the type of kid that I am, following

people's directions, I figured there was something good for me in this maybe. So I came to the stadium prepared, went to his house Friday night. We spent the night laughing and talking, and just before we went to bed she told me: In the morning, I've got a trip I'm going to take you on. She never told me where we were going.

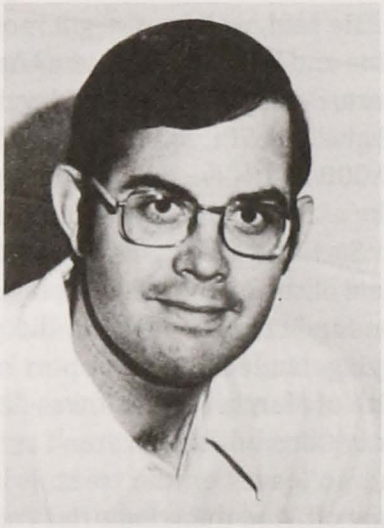
We woke up that morning about 4 o'clock. We got in her car, and we started up Highway 79. Still didn't know where we were going. We got on Interstate 30. I still had no idea where we are going to. We got to Little Rock, started towards Conway. She leaned back and she told me that I am taking you where you are going to school at. We arrived in Fayetteville. I don't know if anyone was here that day, but let me plant the season of what the conditions were like in Fayetteville that day. The temperature was 20 degrees. It was raining. It was sleeting. And it was snowing. There is a stadium, and there is not one empty seat in the stands, and 99 percent of the people that were there were wearing Razorback paraphernalia. I heard the Hog chant 101 for my first time in real personal life. It was mind-tingling. The hairs on the back of my neck stood up to see 30,000 people calling the Hogs at one time and to know that those fans thought enough of those guys on those football teams to be out there in those weather conditions — I'm talking about did not leave until the final gun was sounded for the game to be over. It made me reflect back to my hometown where I had the same type of fan base at. And I knew that day that those were the type of people I wanted to play in front of.

So when the University of Arkansas contacted me a year later and told me they were interested in me coming to school here, I made a decision that I was going to wait until I had expired all my trips. And at the time I was voted Mr. Louisiana. I was recruited by all the schools in the state of Arkansas, half the schools in the state of Texas. I was recruited by Notre Dame and several other major colleges. But I wanted to make sure that my last look before I signed a sheet of paper was with the University of Arkansas. And after my visit here, it was a Feb. 13th signing

date. I came here Feb. 7th and six days later I signed a letter of intent with the University of Arkansas.

ALLEN: Let's just go down the line. Dean was at the University of North Carolina and was the head trainer for a young up-and-coming basketball coach named Dean Smith and chose to give that job up and come here to the University of Arkansas. One, I was curious about coming with Frank Broyles, and, two, 1957 wasn't that far behind. They had had the Little Rock Central crisis. What was your image of Arkansas coming here.

WEBER: I did remember Little Rock in the '50s, although I was just in, I had just started high school at that time. But I did remember reading about it. The only previous recollection of Arkansas I had at all [was] Dean and I were sitting next to each other on a basketball trip in 1969 in December and we were going to Charlotte or Greensboro to play a basketball game and he had this little thing called a transistor radio, and we were listening to the 'Big Shootout,' Arkansas and Texas, and it was, you know that was a big deal, although he was from Kansas, and actually when I came here I had to look on the map. I thought Arkansas was where Kansas was, but had no idea where Arkansas was, but having been from Virginia and was in North Carolina, but I do remember listening to that game and it was few years later that I got contacted about this position being open out here.



Dean Weber, 1973

It took Frank [Broyles] forever to make a decision about whether to hire me or not. And I had to make a decision because

I had another, I was going to leave North Carolina. I was going to go in a different direction. I wanted to work with football more than anything, and had a good run at North Carolina. We went to a bunch of Final Fours and had had a lot of success, but I wanted to come out here and I couldn't hear from him and didn't realize — it was in March and we had already had spring practice there and were getting ready to have spring break and they were having spring break here and just couldn't get back. And I asked Dean to call, and Dean called and about an hour later, I got a call and said you can have this job. And I said, well, my wife would like to come visit and see what it's like. And he was — I could tell — that he was tired of messing with this thing and he didn't want to be bothered with it anymore.

He said, well, you've got mountains back there in North Carolina and Virginia, don't you? And I said, yeah. You got trees back there, don't you? And I said, yeah. And he said, well, we do, too. I'll give you 500 more dollars. He was going to raise me up from 10,000 to 10-five if I'd come, and I'll give 500 more if you won't take a trip, you won't come here to visit.

So I said OK, that's fine with me. $500 was a lot of money then, of course. So that was my recollection of Arkansas prior to coming here. Then when I did get here, it was like Johnnie was saying, landed at this airport out here, and it was the 17th or 18th of March. I mean it was desolate. You could tell there were mountains but they weren't real mountains like what we've got and no leaves on the trees. It looked like an atomic bomb had gone off. And then that drive from Drake Field up to — we didn't even have the bypass — that drive through south Fayetteville, wow, what have I gotten myself into cause I'm coming from Chapel Hill and it was a pretty little village and it was quaint and all that. Got here though, and everything was fine then.

ALLEN: Dennis was one of the few, maybe the only, Razorback who they recruited who they never saw play a football game, and that was because Dennis was from Marianna, and the city of Marianna had such racial strife that Marianna didn't field a football team that year. Harold went down to see him at a bas-

ketball game and signed him on the spot, well you couldn't sign then, you know they recruited him. They saw the athletic ability.

There are a lot of things I would like to ask Dennis, including growing up in Arkansas where for a lot of your life you couldn't have played for the Razorbacks even if you had wanted to and it wasn't until, I guess, your ninth grade year before John Richardson came in '69 that that happened. One, why did you come here and what was it like growing up in a state where you couldn't play for your state university?

WINSTON: Well, it started out, actually in 1971 is when we first integrated in Marianna. My high school coach just happened to be Coach Harold Horton's roommate, Charlie Moore, and so I was, I was actually being recruited from the time I was in 10th grade along with another young man that played beside me, John Woods. I think his brother is here. John Woods and I probably were the two best linebackers in the state of Arkansas that no one ever heard of, but all-in-all John went to the University of Texas. So Coach Horton came and watched us play from our 10th and 11th grade years. John, after our 11th grade year, went on to Texas. All of a sudden, now, this racial stuff started happening at my high school, and we don't field a football team. So I leave. I go to Memphis. I go to school in Memphis. The team I leave in Memphis goes 11 and 0. I come back to Marianna, thinking that we are going to field a team in Marianna, and we don't field a team. Everybody's ineligible because everybody didn't go to school for a whole year.

So I came back. I played basketball, and still I was recruited by pretty much everybody that recruited me from the start from 10th grade on. You know, Tennessee, Mississippi State, Oklahoma State, Texas, Vanderbilt, you know, Ole Miss, Memphis. I mean you could go on and on. I could go on and on and on, but the thing about it is, I never got an opportunity to play football my senior year, but Coach Horton came back and watched me play basketball the whole season. Every time I look up, I saw this little man in the stands. I was like, gyah, you know, and every game, every basketball game, I mean in some of the places

— like we'd be going to Osceola, he's there, you know. We'd play Forrest City. He's there, you know. Or Helena. He's there. I asked my coach, is that that guy from Arkansas again? And then all of a sudden, another guy starts showing up. Boris Malczeski. I said, who is this guy? Couldn't understand a word he said. He showed, and I tell you what, it was an experience, because I wasn't going to get out of Arkansas no matter what. And Coach Horton, he'll dispute this to this day, but I was not coming to Arkansas to be honest with you. I was actually going to Oklahoma State.

All kind of things happen on that signing date. Boris Malczeski was in front of my house, sitting at 7 a.m. in the morning. The guy from Oklahoma State, their plane was delayed. The guy that was coming from Michigan or Eastern Michigan was stopped by state troopers coming into town. University of Tennessee just didn't show. And so I was sitting there thinking, I don't have no scholarship. Only thing I know at 8:01 in the morning with my high school coach, my high school basketball coach, my high school football coach, my principal, my mom and my dad, we all sign to come to the University of Arkansas. And all of a sudden the guy that was coming into town, they let him out of jail once I had signed.

I asked Coach Horton about that, and he said he knows nothing about it. So that's how I ended up at the University of Arkansas.

ALLEN: Well, that's one I didn't know. I was remiss. Kayla Malczeski, who was married to Boris, is in the audience, and all the players certainly remember her from the past. Boris was a character unto himself. He was born in Poland, and actually came face to face with Hitler because Hitler took over Poland. He was in a concentration camp. They ended up coming to Arkansas. He grew up in a black neighborhood and basically spoke Polish ebonics that no one understands. Nobody understood him but everybody loved him is kind of the way it went.

I forgot one other one. Mike Burlingame is out there. Mike was a player, a teammate of Dennis and Johnnie and ended up being the only center that ever ran for the Heisman. That was a

tongue-in-cheek campaign that actually got him one vote.

Finally, Brison Manor, I do know this from talking to Brison and when I did a story on him in the past, that Brison's first memory of Arkansas was seeing a picture of the all-white national championship team. He's growing up in New Jersey and thinking, well, there's one place I'll never go to school and he not only came but ended up being a life-long Arkansas resident, went to Pratt Junior College and was recruited by Lon Farrell, who is also a story unto himself. Brison, I know you also recruited a coach while you were being recruited.

MANOR: How you doing? I want to say what these guys said at first, it's a pleasure to be here, and I would never think that me, coming to the University of Arkansas, that I would be sitting here tonight talking about what we're talking about in front of this audience, so I thank you for having me here and I thank all the panelists because I was instrumental in getting some of these guys here. And, they deserve it. And Dean Weber, we just love you. That's all we can say about that.

Me coming to the University of Arkansas, I saw the university win the national championship in 1964. Now, I was probably about 12 years old or whatever, and I saw that and I said I'll never go to Arkansas, all right, because they don't have any black ballplayers.

So, on my way to trying to pick a school, I was supposed to go to Kansas State but my grades were not all that great so I was working at a knitting factory — they had me on the loading docks. Boxes were six foot tall, 175 to 220 pounds, and I was breaking them down and the guy called at me, and I said, yeah, and he said, where are you, and I said, I'm over here. Box was here, box was here and I was face down, knocked out. For $2.37 an hour. So I got back to the loading dock and they said you got a call from a coach Cotter at Pratt Junior College. He said big man, you know I heard a lot about you and saw some film. You know, we would love to have you out here. And I only asked him one question, when does football season start? And he said it starts in two weeks, and I said I'll be there. So sight unseen, I went

to Kansas, played two years there and was All-American. Came down to Lon Farrell in Kansas State University. I was tired of Kansas. Now anybody that's from Kansas, I apologize, all right. But I mean you can see forever and a day, and not see anything but sky. Then I flew down to Arkansas. One thing I liked about Arkansas was that you could fly right into Drake Field, where I had to take a bus [to Pratt].

Now picture this, you get off the plane, you're in this city, the coach is there and you get to the stop sign, the stop light and you look to the right and you see a city and we drove 77 miles the other way. That's what Kansas is. My first piece of buffalo meat that I ever had, except for looking on TV. You see the tumbleweed going across the road. I didn't want to go to Kansas no more.

Lon Farrell recruited me and recruited me in such a way that the more I talked to him the more interested I became an Arkansas fan. You know, he showed me the Hog yell, and he used to have this little porta-thing that you bring in and it was on the floor, and everybody else was on the floor and we were looking at the people calling the Hogs and calling the game. Well it finally came down, Lon asked me, do you know any minority coaches that we could possibly talk to. Well, I only knew one because they tried to recruit me to Kansas State and that's Frank Falks, the first Afro-American coach that was in the Southwest Conference. That came in 1973. So all of a sudden both of them show up, and I'm like, oh, well, needless to say, the day of signing, I had to sneak out of the dorm at 5 o'clock in the morning to sign with Arkansas off-campus. And I told my mom, do not sign any papers until I get back with you. Well, I wanted to see just how interested they were in me because I've heard all these things: you don't want to go to Arkansas because they're racist, things of that nature. Coming out of New Jersey, I've been through race riots and things of that nature. But the only thing about it is I had the opportunity to play football, and I had an opportunity to be a student-athlete.

So [I] get there. Lon Farrell walks away. Coach Falks sits down with me. I say, coach, you all are really putting a lot of pressure

on me. He said, well, I just want to let you know that I'm with the University of Arkansas right now. Why don't you call your momma. Oh, look, there's a dime on the table. Call your momma and tell her to send those papers back. Frank has a way of looking at you, and then Lon comes up, professor that he is, Ph.D., doctor, he looks at me. Ahhh, Momma, send those papers back. Are you sure? Yes, ma'am, I'm sure.

So when I came to Arkansas, guess who I ran into? Dennis Winston. All of us were up here at the same time. All of us were broke. The jobs that we had. Down at Leverett Gardens, they got a rock wall that I personally put every rock on that wall.

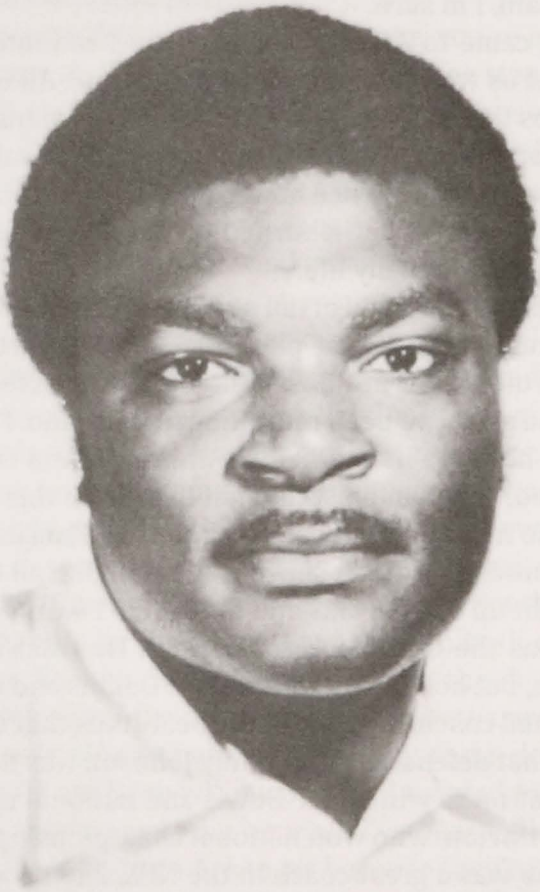
So that was my experience about trying to get to Arkansas, a humbling experience, but it turned out to be one of the best decisions I ever made in my life.

ALLEN: I do have a Lon Farrell story. You remember Roland Fusche, the running back that played such a big part in 1975. Well, Lon recruited him in Kansas City and impressed Roland. He came in and said, I've been recruiting in Colorado. I've driven all night. And he came in and he was unshaven and everything and all rumpled. So Roland just thought if he came this way all to recruit you [he must be serious]. He'd been in Kansas City and slept in his clothes and didn't shave just to tell him all that.

You brought up Frank Falks and that's one I would like to — because he was the first black coach here. He wasn't Brison's position coach, but he was for Johnnie and Dennis and one of the most underrated coaches on one of the best staffs that ever came up here. And that defensive staff: Jimmy Johnson was the coordinator and went on to win Super Bowls and national championships; Harold Horton, who won national championships at UCA; Bill Lewis, who was a great coach in the NFL, and so was Frank Falks. I guess I'll start with you Johnnie because you played for him the most. I guess what kind of a coach was he and how did it work out?

MEADORS: Coach Frank Falks. I'll tell you. He was a gentleman who approached me one day as we were getting ready to play the University of Southern California. Mr. Anthony Davis

and the Trojans were on their way to Little Rock that weekend. We were in film session. This is Monday afternoon and he walks in. I'm sitting on the back corner and he tells me when the meeting is over with, I need to talk to you. OK. He says, so when the



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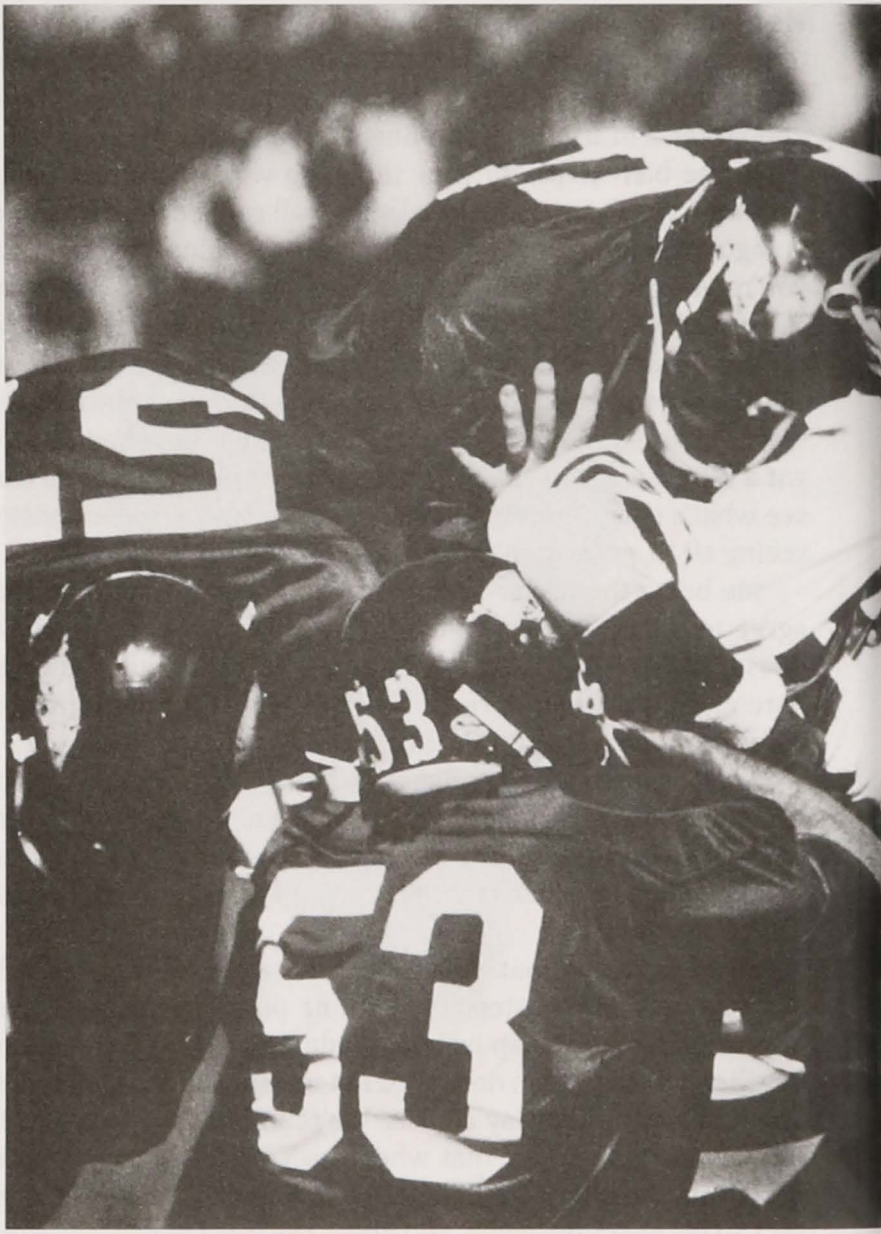
Coach Frank Falks, who worked with defensive ends at Arkansas.

session is over, stay in the room because I want to talk to you. Meeting is over, everyone leaves, and he closes the door, and he tells me, says I want to make you an offer. He tells me, said if you will agree to move I'll play you Saturday night. Now I'm a middle linebacker. I'm used to rambling, running, rolling. I'm used to when the ball snaps, do your thing, go where you need to go, get in the right position and take the ball carrier down. And you going to tell me that if I agree to move this Monday afternoon, you're going to play me at outside linebacker or defensive end, as it was called then, on the corner. He say, yeah, just that simple. Ok, now, I'm sitting here. I got this image. Send me out here on this corner, with my body turned one sided, looking the opposite way and don't know what's coming from me now because I've got a blind side. You can only see in one direction, but you can't see what's over here. Because I'm used to see peripheral vision, seeing all 11 guys at one time when the ball snaps. So, OK.

Me being the player I am I want to help the team out and I agree to move. He takes me out there Monday evening. All he does is puts me in the stands. Now I want you to just stay right here and I want you to remember you have to check and read before you move. That has just changed my whole life.

I do not know what it's like to be still. I do not know what it is like to have to read before I react. I'm use to moving, doing what I have to do to get to where I need to go and let my instincts kick in and go in some holes that I'm not supposed to go in to make a play.

So he sticks me out there. I step for awhile. That's all I did all practice was just step. Tuesday, he puts me back out there and lets me take a snap or two. Wednesday, he just throws me out there. All right. I'm doing OK. I'm making these adjustments. Lo and behold, Saturday arrives. We're in Little Rock. I have informed the gatekeeper that when the Trojans go in that gate I want you to lock it, and I will tell you when to open it. [Laughter.] So we get in the game, and about the third play of the game, my teammate, Ivin Jordan, twisted his ankle. This man hollers, get out there. I'm like, coach, that's the wrong side. He tells me



Muskie Harris, another of the 1973 players who helped integrate Arkansas,

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holds onto a running back from the University of Texas.

just change to the opposite side. I'm like wait a minute now. You going to throw me in the Southern California game and just tell me that I'm momentarily supposed to change my stand, and I'm supposed to be all right. And he says, yeah, you'll be all right. So he throws me out there, and lo and behold, I get on the field, and this gentleman is playing tight end for the Southern Cal Trojans and is down in his stance. And I lean over and tell him, if you don't mind, would you please get in your stance so I can see what's in the backfield. This gentleman raises his head and goes, hey, I am in my stance. Yes, sir. OK, I am a nervous wreck. Anthony Davis has just run the opening kickoff back 97 yards to start this game off. And I have just been hurled out here and I'm supposed to change my stand and be comfortable in a game of this nature. So, OK, I go out there but my heart is just racing. I survived the first two snaps. OK. I go off the sideline and he asks me how I'm doing. I'm doing fine. It's OK, you're going be all right.

Well, a few plays later, next series, Dan Crawford hurts himself. Here he goes, get in there. Coach, I'm confused now. Which side am I going on? Just go back to your normal side. You're going to be all right. Well, lo and behold, I made it pretty good. I did. I made it through that game. I survived without just being blown away. I made a few tackles and he told me when he put me there if you work hard at what you're doing I can see where by the middle of the season you might have a starting position. OK, so I'm listening.

The next week, we played Oklahoma State. Danny Crawford, first play of the game, Oklahoma State's favorite play is Lead 48. Back in the day, chop blocks were not outlawed. My coach had informed us that Monday when we started practicing if you miss this lead block you will be taken off the field. The first play of the game, they ran Lead 48 at Danny, hit him on his outside knee. His feet went up on the air, and they had to take him out of the game. My coach looked back at me and told me, said, there it is. It's yours until you get tired of it. He said now I told you I was going to play you. Here's your chance to show me what you want

to think about it. He said now you get out there and said that will be your starting position until you get tired of it. And he was a man of his word. For three years, I was starring outside linebacker, as I call it, defensive end for the University of Arkansas, and believe me I had a field day and I enjoyed every second of it.

ALLEN: There's another Frank that coached that team. I think we all know who that Frank is, Frank Broyles. At the time, SMU was the first school in the South to integrate, in 1965, with Jerry LeVias, and gradually other schools started. Arkansas started in 1969. Looking back, we all wish it had been sooner than that. On the other hand, you got to remember that when Frank Broyles was hired, he was hired in December of 1957, and Little Rock Central just happened in September. Times weren't exactly right at the time. To his credit, Frank Broyles did integrate the University of Missouri while he was there. He signed their first black athlete. And while it ended badly with Nolan Richardson, there's no doubt that was a precedent to have hired him.

I was just wondering, the three of you and Dean, too, I'll even start with Dean, what was it like to work for him, and since you're on staff and that was the first year that they had a significant amount of black players, was there anything special, did they talk about anything about how to handle this, any special measures or anything?

WEBER: No, not really. Unless Harold can remember something that I can't. I know when I came — it'll be 40 years in March — we already had Johnny Sutton and Marsh White, Ivan, I guess, and Roland Smith. There wasn't a concern, I don't of the staff so much. That signing class, when we had 12 or 13, I was telling Brison earlier I was really fortunate and blessed. I don't know if it was the way I was brought up or just, but I knew that race — I knew these guys were a different color than me and had a better tan than I did but other than that — and we had a great time. Let me tell you we had a lot of fun in those days, and it's lasted for a long time. We had a blast. It was never a big concern. I had come from the University of North Carolina and we'd had a couple of basketball players, not too many, Charlie Scott, Bob McAdoo, a

couple others, Don Washington, not too many black athletes, but it was never particularly a big deal. It wasn't to me anyway. I was real fortunate that I could look past all that and not think about it. Did these guys ever upset me? Yeah, they upset me, but it wasn't because they were black. There were a lot of white guys that upset me, too. When you go 5 and 5, and 6 and 4, you tend to get upset. I do remember one humorous thing about Roland. He had been dating a white girl and that was really a concern. I think that her dad found out, and he was a farmer. And we're walking out to practice one day, and he said, Dean would you keep an eye up there on the stadium. You see an old white guy up there with a gun, you let me know. And that wasn't that far from the truth. It may well have happened. But other than that, and Harvey [Hampton]. Harvey was scared of, but, Harvey was scared of everyone. Harvey was scared of his own shadow. But other than that it wasn't that big a deal.

NATE: Dennis or Brison, do you remember any Broyles anecdotes or do you remember him kind of talking to you all about what life was going to be like up here or anything like that?

WINSTON: Basically, the only thing I remember is one day we were practicing and, me, being the type of person I am, I was chasing the quarterback and I got hit, blindsided. So I jumped up and I said this is it, so I just pulled my jersey over my head, took my pants off and threw over here and threw my helmet over here and walked up to the, just kept walking. Then the only thing I heard Frank say was, "Go get him. Go get him! Somebody go get him." And I didn't see a coach move, and I just kept walking. After awhile, the only thing about what happened to me was I thought I was going to be — because I had had back problems — I thought, that's it, I'm going to be paralyzed. But I came back and so I was walking and I could look down and see everybody, and they're still just practicing. But that's all he ever said, just somebody go get him. I don't know why but Coach Broyles didn't talk to me that much.

ALLEN: Brison, you got any memories?

MANOR: I think most of the time, the position coach was

Arkansas Razorback Yearbook

Brison Manor plays against Texas A&M.

the person who handled things, OK? Did we have differences? Yes. But sometimes, you know, you got to remember why you're there. You're there to play football. You're there to get an education. And you might not like the tone of voice a person uses — I'm not speaking about anybody in particular — but as far as players, we were there to play football. OK. And we were there to get an education. You know everybody has been through different types of racial things, you know, in their high schools, and some of the stuff that was happening out in Fayetteville. Like you said, now it's more prevalent to see an interracial couple. Back then, you just didn't do

Harvey Hampton, No. 57.

Arkansas Razorback Yearbook

that. You don't be walking around the mall with somebody other than your own color. And if you had, say you had maybe affections for another person then you couldn't show it, OK. And there was some very, very nice, intelligent people back at that point in time, but you just couldn't do it.

I was in Denver, and we were playing and there were some young guys and every girl that walked by they was hitting on them. And I said, and I won't say who the coach was, Dan Reeves, but I kept telling them, I said guys you know there are certain things you can't do and there are certain things you can. OK? And you don't need to do this right here in our complex, and they didn't listen to me. And the next thing you know the guy came by and he had his bags, and I said where are you going? And he said, they cut me. Well, you say there's racial harmony and then there isn't racial harmony.

So it wasn't just at the University of Arkansas. I've

seen it professionally too. So let's be real. It's all over. It's not in one place. But as far as coach Broyles was concerned, Lon Farrell, they gave me the opportunity to come here and play football and get an education. Where else was I going to get that, being from New Jersey? I came down, basically, sight unseen. You know no one knew about me. I had to make a way for myself to get notice. So I'm just going to say that I made more right decisions than wrong.

ALLEN: A couple more things because we haven't even hit the big topics. When you have 13 black players that come in, suddenly some white guys are going to lose their starting jobs, and that team, going 5-5-1 those black players would lose their starting jobs, it was such a grab-bag year. How do you think the black and white players mixed going into those '73 and '74 teams?

MANOR: I thought we mixed real good, simply because we were there to win. If there was dissention, Hal McAfee, all right. I can remember walking back to the dorm, and I was down near Dillon's, where Mr. Big Burger was. And there was three or four cars that went by me that were ball players. Hal McAfee stopped. He said, you got to jump in the back. Fine. But at least somebody stopped. I still respect him. He passed. He's gone from us today, but I still respect him for that, that he took the time to say there's a fellow ball player down here and he's got a long walk, but he stopped to pick me up. There are certain people that you just — like Mark Miller — I had a good relationship with Mark Miller. Tommy Harris, I had a good relationship with him. Now let me just say this, let's be honest. There's some black people I don't like. There's some white people I don't like. Now I'm not going to be a hypocrite and say I'm in love with everybody, but there are some white people that I will hurt you over if you mess with somebody like Dean. I got Dean's back. That's the way it went. You have certain people that you all just clicked and they just happened to be white. And they're like family. So to each his own.

ALLEN: I've got two more. I know John Richardson had fin-

ished up, but I know you knew him, and he probably helped recruit you all. Did he talk much about his experiences and was he encouraging or did he say some problems he had trailblazing?

MANOR: John, when I met him, he was coming out as I was going in, and the one thing that John said to the guys coming in at the present time, like Dennis, Johnnie Meadors, you all guys are coming in for a purpose. Our goal was to try to make it to the next level, and that's the way we played. For instance, the USC game, I had a picture of Anthony Davis on my wall that was on *Sports Illustrated* on my closet door. By the time we played USC, we had to replace the door because anyone that came in had to forearm it. Right? You remember that, right? You get a guy like meatloaf standing there who hits it four or five times, the door begins messing up, but we had to replace that.

But I want to say something about Dennis Winston. They were driving on us, and I said something like guys get your all's butt in gear and let's play some damn football, and Dennis said ... he went off. He took it just like literally and the next thing you know he was all around Anthony Davis. Everywhere Anthony Davis was, Dennis Winston was there. He was national player of the week. You know he had maybe like 19 tackles and was hurting people. And that's what we did, we hurt people. I hate to say it, but we went out and hurt people. We didn't care about you when we played because we were playing Razorback football.

ALLEN: I did want to say a couple of things in closing. One, there's a couple of coaches that should be mentioned and their part in integrating the Razorbacks, certainly the late Denny Waller and Lanny Van Eman in basketball, and Norm DeBriyn and John McDonnell. Muskie Harris, one of your classmates, I believe, had an organization that honored him, honored both of them in Little Rock. And Norm grew up in Wisconsin, back when the NCAA allowed enough baseball scholarships to have black players before they slashed it all. But he called it the Vince Lombardi system. Always room a black player and a white player together, and they had a bunch of them in that '85 team. Also John McDonnell, he didn't care what language you spoke or what

color you were as long as you went to class and you won. That's all he cared about anybody. Both of them.

I also wanted to mention here that — and I think the players here will vouch for it — that in the history of the University of Arkansas nobody on a daily basis helped more athletes of all colors and all sports than Dean Weber right here.

In closing, I compared how the Razorbacks integrated in football to how the Brooklyn Dodgers integrated in baseball. Jackie Robinson, in his own way, may have done more for civil rights than Martin Luther King. At Brooklyn, he was the trailblazer, and then John Richardson would blaze a trail here. But neither blazed a trail alone. They had to have help. Jackie Robinson needed a white veteran player like Peewee Reese and others to stand up and show the concept of team and that winning was more important than hatred and ignorance. And I think that John Richardson needed that and the players that followed needed that, for white players to do the right thing, you know, kind of shed any prejudices that were ingrained in them in the past. I think as Brison, Johnnie and Dennis have indicated, Arkansas had those kind of white players in abundance and I think the state of Arkansas can be proud of that.

Also, at the same time, after Jackie Robinson's trail, with all he did, it wouldn't have happened if Roy Campanella and Don Newcomb and Junior Gilliam hadn't followed as black players with even greater character. And I just hope that everyone here realizes that when it comes to three players of great character and who were great players and even greater character, you're looking at them right here.

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Lawyer Who Prosecuted Last Man Hanged in Arkansas Still Is Active in Eureka at 83

EDITOR'S NOTE: John Fuller Cross, grandson of Claude Albert Fuller and May Obenshain Fuller, came across the following article from the Sunday, March 22, 1959, issue of the Joplin Globe *about Fuller and his role as prosecutor in one of the last legal hangings in Arkansas. For many years, it was believed to be the last hanging, but a subsequent execution was later discovered at Paris, Ark.*

By Margaret E. Lyons

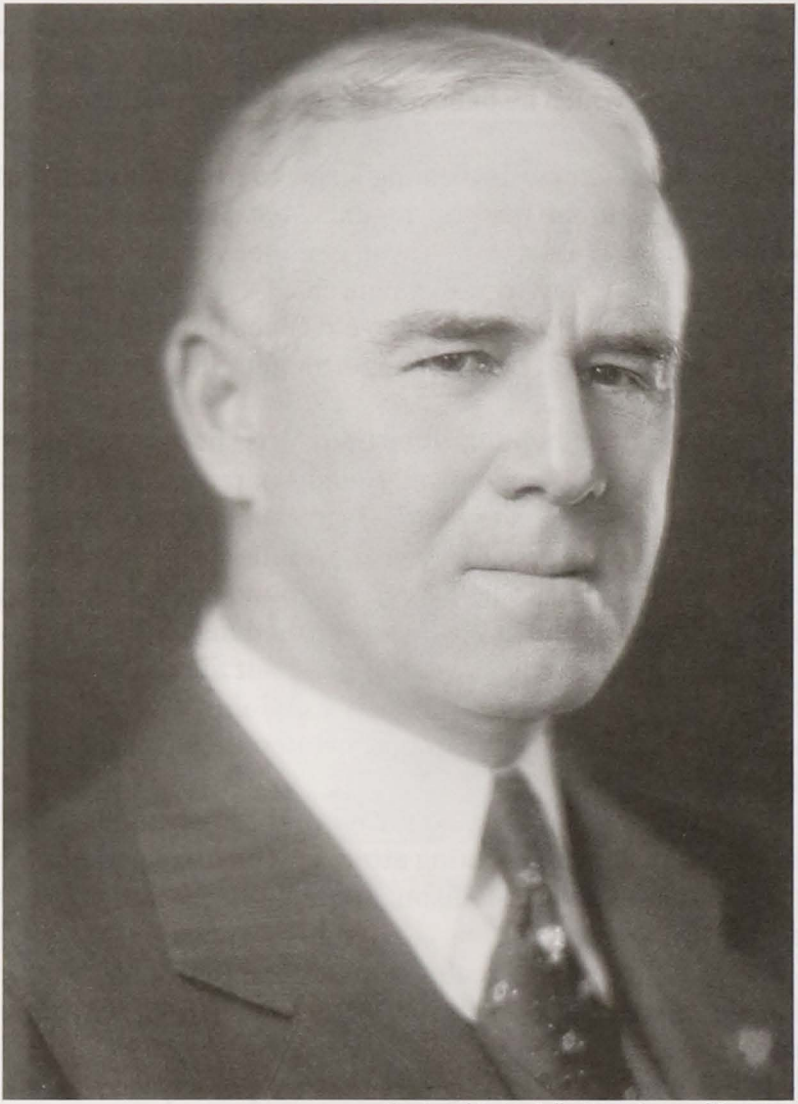
Claude Albert Fuller of Eureka Springs, Ark., is called "The Backwoods Baron" by his biographer, Frank L. Beals, in his book on Mr. Fuller's life. The title needs the word, "Fabulous Backwoods Baron," to make it complete.

It's a true Alger[1] story that could only happen in America. Today, Mr. Fuller, at 83, belies his age by several score.

Handsome, straight as an arrow, with the charm and manners of a proverbial Kentucky colonel who keeps his Southern hospitality polished up by constant use, is a real eye catcher. His white 'hair crowns a youthful jovial face; his black eyes sparkle, he walks with an aristocratic air, and he glows with life and interest in his fellow-man.

"Gentleman of Old School."

Today, probably the most colorful gentleman of the old school in Arkansas, and no doubt the state's oldest practicing lawyer, a dyed in the wool Democrat who served his state in many capacities, from state legislature to representative in Congress, vividly



Harris and Ewing Collection, Library of Congress

Claude Albert Fuller served as prosecuting attorney of the 4th Judicial District of Arkansas from 1910 to 1914. The district at that time covered Washington, Benton, Carroll and Madison counties. From 1929-1939, he served as U.S. representative for the 3rd District of Arkansas, which then covered most of western and northwestern Arkansas.

recalls his first major decision in public office.

It was Claude Fuller, who, as a very young prosecuting attorney, sent to the gallows the last man to be hanged in Arkansas; a decision which he believed right, and from which he never waivered.[2]

Nellie Moneyhun was a young girl who lived with her mother and father not far from Springdale, Ark. She taught the one-room community school, and was a model young woman who never missed Sunday school or church.

One of her pupils was 20-year-old Omer Davis. He appeared to [be] studious, and occasionally brought gifts of candy or an apple to her at school.

One night in midwinter, when there was snow on the ground, Davis went to her home to call. Nellie's parents sat around the fire all evening and visited with their daughter and Davis. At a later hour, Davis got up to leave and Nellie walked to the door with him, when he suddenly turned around, whipped out a revolver and shot Nellie in the head. She died instantly.

Davis, without saying a word, calmly put the gun in his pocket and left. The heavy snow was his undoing. His tracks were easy to follow and he was caught by a posse of neighbors and friends of Miss Moneyhun.

He was tried and indicted for murder at Fayetteville. Young Claude Fuller was prosecuting attorney. The district was a large one, including Carroll, Madison, Benton and Washington counties.

Naturally, the case created a great deal of interest not only in all Arkansas, but also throughout other parts of the United States.

Fuller won a verdict of guilty, and the penalty was death by hanging.

The attorney for the defense entered a plea of insanity for Davis, which did not hold up. However, the sheriff, Sam Caudle, was a good friend of Governor [George Washington] Hays of Arkansas, so he went to him and made a plea for life imprisonment. The governor was impressed and agreed to commute the

sentence, if the prosecuting attorney would recommend it.

Now, one of Fuller's friends, close to the governor, learned of it, and hastened to warn Fuller. Then, Fuller mysteriously disappeared and could not be found. Friends had hidden him in the hills. It seems that several previous murderers in Arkansas had got off easy, and Fuller was determined that here was one cold-blooded slayer who would pay for his crime.

Courtesy of John Fuller Cross

Claude Albert Fuller in the early 1900s.

So Fuller hid in the hills with friends until Davis was hanged.

Davis walked resolutely to the scaffold and stood calmly while the noose was adjusted around his neck. He didn't utter a sound, and the trap was sprung.

Last Legal Hanging

He was the last man hanged in Arkansas.[2]

Because of the furor created by the case, death by electric chair was voted by the state legislature soon after.

After the hanging, Fuller emerged from his hiding.

Today, Fuller conducts his law office with as much zeal as

ever. He serves as president of the Eureka Springs Bank, looks after his big ranching interests, rides horseback, never misses a Rotary meeting, owns the Basic [sic] Park hotel, and is as interested in the guests there as if he were host in his own home.

Life is fun to him and he loves working. "If I can't die with my boots on, I won't die," he has said.

An ardent Democrat, he is always as interested in an election as if he were running for office again. He has held almost every office in his city, county and state. Eureka Springs has honored him with dinners, plaques and medals, as has the state.

He served as mayor of Eureka Springs 12 years, president of the school board for years, prosecuting attorney four years, member of the state legislature and as a representative in Congress from Arkansas four terms.[3]

Friend of F.D.R.

In Washington, he became a close friend of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, as well as other key men in the United States government. He was nicknamed "Barrel Stave" Fuller and affectionately called that from the time he went to bat for the wood and lumber industry of Arkansas. He delivered a stirring speech in Congress in the lumbermen's behalf, using barrel staves in illustrating his talk.

Fuller was born January 20, 1876, in Springhill, Ill. His mother, Maria, a deeply religious Baptist, and his father, Wilmont P. Fuller, came with their young brood to the Midwest. They first went to Kansas and then to Arkansas, where they settled on a small farm.

They endured many hardships and young Claude worked from the time he was able to hold a hoe. Though very poor, Maria held the highest standards for her children and was determined that all have an education.

Claude literally pulled himself up by his bootstraps. He would work and go to school, then stop awhile and work for enough money to continue and he never gave up. He knew early in life that he a wanted to be a lawyer. He went to Chicago, where he

worked long and hard hours as a waiter to put himself through Kent School of Law. Then he studied in the law offices of C.G. White in Eureka Springs for two years. He passed his examinations and was admitted to the bar on February 5, 1898.

Lost Wife In Death.

He was married to May Obenshain, and they had three children. Mrs. Fuller lived to celebrate their fiftieth wedding anniversary. Fuller is very proud of his two daughters – all that remain of his family.

Fuller is the grand old man of Arkansas, one of the most colorful gentlemen of the old school.

"As long as I live," he says, "I'll never stop working for my state. We've got the best climate, the prettiest scenery and the finest people. That's Arkansas!"

So, truly, "The Backwoods Baron," "Barrel Stave" Fuller, can over his vast holdings, count his friends in the thousands, and be glad he made a decision when he was very young – which he thought was right – and stuck to it because it helped him have backbone enough to continue to stand by his guns, if he thought the cause was right."

Notes

1. The "Alger story" refers to the novels written by Horatio Alger that depicted a protagonist who rose from rags-to-riches based on character traits and hard work.
2. Although the hanging of Omer Davis in Fayetteville was believed for many years to be the last legal hanging in Arkansas, a later case at Paris, Arkansas, occurred in which execution was delayed by unsuccessful appeals of the defendant, resulting in a hanging after the state had passed laws requiring all executions to be done by electrocution. See more under "Capital Punishment" at the Arkansas Encyclopedia of History and Culture at www. encyclopedia.net.
3. Fuller ended up serving five terms in Congress.

Timeline of Prairie Grove History

By Susan Parks-Spencer

1817 — Thomas Wagnon, with brothers Isaac and James Marrs, arrives in what is now western Washington County to map and hunt in the Cane Hill, Lincoln, Rhea, and Prairie Grove areas.

Thomas Wagnon later returns to Prairie Grove and settles near the spring in Mock Park.

1818 — Rachel C. Marrs, five year-old daughter of James Marrs, dies of unknown causes. She is the earliest documented burial in the Prairie Grove cemetery.

1829 — Reverend Andrew "Uncle Buck" Buchanan, a Cumberland Presbyterian minister, discovers Thomas Wagnon's settlement near the Prairie Grove spring. Wagnon agrees to trade his land to Uncle Buck for two good sermons.

1831 — Rev. Buchanan organizes the Prairie Congregation of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

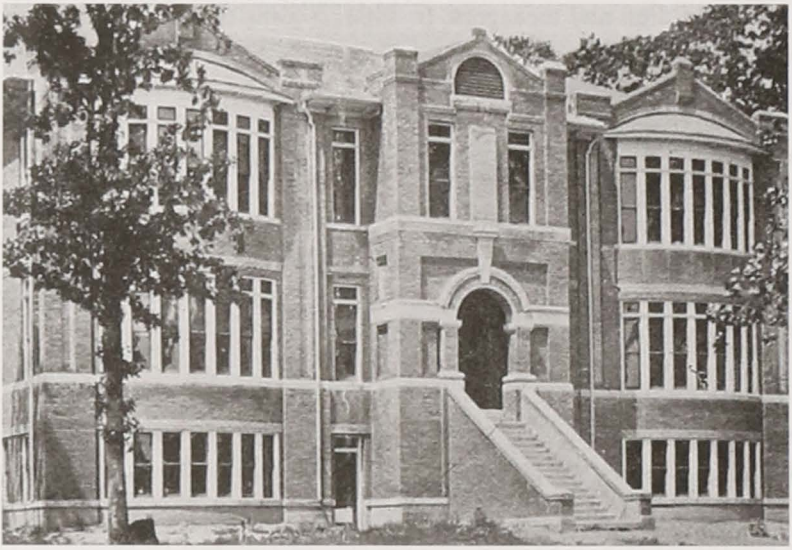
A school is also opened, this year or soon after, for young children.

1838 — The Prairie Congregation purchases from Rev. Buchanan and his wife, Sinai, around two and a half acres for $25 and a promise to build a church, school, and use part of the land as a cemetery.

1840 — Sweet Home, the first post office in Prairie Grove, opens. It closes in 1846.

1857 — Archibald Borden opens the second post office, which is named after his daughter, Ada.

The third Prairie Grove Cumberland Presbyterian Church as it looks today, with the Prairie Grove Cemetery at far left.



The new three-story Prairie Grove Public School, which was built in 1911 on the site of the old Prairie Grove Institute.

The building is struck by bullets during the Battle of Prairie Grove and never reopens.

Years later, the bullet-ridden door is salvaged when the building was torn down, however, it was later destroyed by fire.

1862 — Confederate and Union soldiers meet in battle on December 7, and the Confederates retreat south to Van Buren that night. During the battle, the Cumberland Presbyterian Church is used by the southern forces as a hospital. Casualties on both sides numbered close to 2700.

1863 — The Union Army houses its soldiers in the vacated Cumberland Presbyterian Church. When the Army later leaves, it is believed they set fire to the church and destroyed it.

ca. 1874 — The town's second school opens in the newly constructed Cumberland Presbyterian Church. This wood frame building was located behind the current Cumberland Presbyterian Church and faced east.

1883 — The Prairie Grove Institute, or Methodist Academy, opens on the northeast corner of Bush and Neal Street. It is the town's first school to teach children and teenagers. In 1901, it joins the new Public School District.

1886 — The first brick business is constructed. Known as the McCoy Produce building, it still stands on the southwest corner of Buchanan and Mock Streets. In 1937, the owners tore down its second floor.

1887-1888 — The third Cumberland Presbyterian Church opens on the corner of Kate Smith and Mock Street. The old church and school directly behind it is sold and dismantled.

1888 — Prairie Grove is incorporated, and telephone service has its start when local physician Dr. E.G. McCormick, his brother, Will, who owns the pharmacy next door, and Will's colleague, Mel Collier, connect two lines together.

1900 — The first Prairie Grove Public School is constructed on the corner of Pittman and Graham Streets. A two-story brick building, it is the town's school until 1911.

A jumble of wires leads into the buiding that first housed the Prairie Grove Telephone Company, about 1953.

Aftermath of the 1906 fire. The Ozark Mercantile Co., left, and the McCoy Produce building, center, survived although the windows of the mercantile were blown out when dynamite was used to stop the fire.

1901 — The first bank, the Bank of Prairie Grove, opens. Also in 1901, a section of the Frisco Railroad line, the Ozark and Cherokee Central Railroad, begins running. The train depot is several blocks south of Main Street. The O&CCR train traveled from Fayetteville to Muskogee, Oklahoma.

ca. 1904— The Prairie Grove Canning and Evaporating Factory opens and processes fruits and vegetables, especially tomatoes. It's later renamed the Prairie Grove Canning Factory and hundreds of local people, including families and their children, are employed at the business until it closes in 1978.

1905 — Prairie Grove Public School graduates its first class with five students.

1906 — The downtown businesses on the north side of Buchanan Street are destroyed by fire. Water is unavailable, so dynamite is used to slow the flames, which shattered many windows of the businesses across the street.

1908 — The United Daughters of the Confederacy purchase nine acres of land where the Battle of Prairie Grove was fought with the intention of creating a park for Confederate veterans.

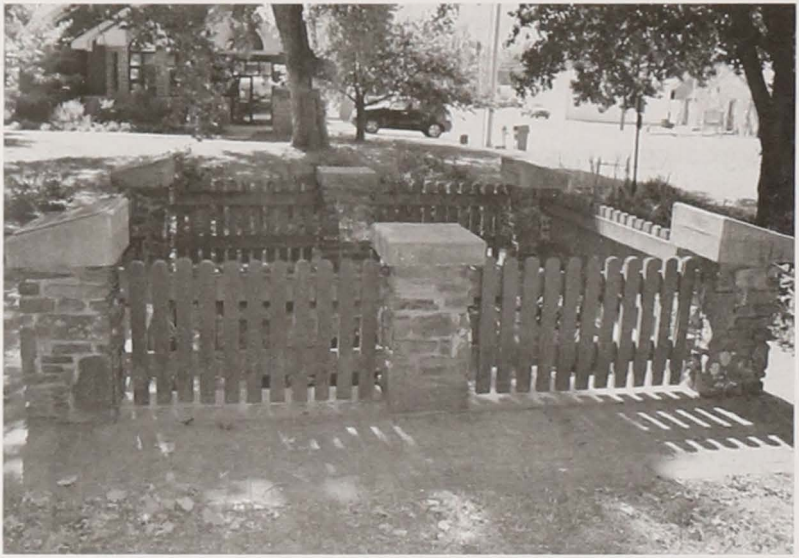
1911 — A new, three-story Public School building opens on the site of the old Prairie Grove Institute.

1931 — An additional school building for elementary students is built across the street on the south side of the existing school.

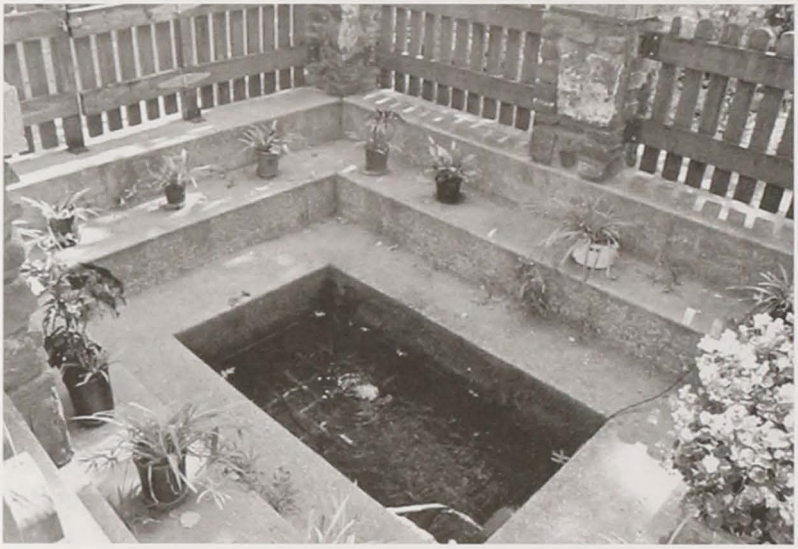
1935 — The Prairie Grove Public Library opens in the American Legion Hut. The librarian's salary is paid by the Works Progress Administration (WPA).

1942 — The railroad line and depot close in Prairie Grove.

1951 — The first school buildings on the current campus are completed.



The spring at Mock Park, enclosed by a picket fence, is cared for volunteers of the Master Gardeners, who take care of landscaping at the park. In the background of the picture above is the property where Tom Wagnon and Rev. Andrew Buchanan first settled.



1957 — The first Clothesline Fair is held at the Prairie Grove Battlefield Park, with vendors displaying their artwork on clotheslines. The Arts Center of the Ozarks and the Prairie Grove Lions Club sponsor this annual event.

1963 — Mock Park, located on Main Street and privately owned, is donated to the city by Dr. Will Mock.

1971 — The Arkansas Legislature approves establishment of the Prairie Grove Battlefield as a State Park.

2001 — The Aquatic Park opens at Delford Rieff Park south of Main Street.

2003 — Four baseball fields are constructed in Rieff Park.

2007 — The dedication of the Prairie Grove Children's Library is held. The Library is in a separate building from the main library.

2014 — New section of Highway 62 opens, diverting traffic east and south around Prairie Grove and bypassing downtown in order to ease congestion.

Call for Submissions: Eighth Annual Prize

The Washington County Historical Society announces the eighth annual competition for the Walter J. Lemke Prize and the Lessie Stringfellow Reid Prize with a call for articles. Anyone interested in Washington County history, whether a professional or amateur historian, is encouraged to enter. Topics can be on any phase of Washington County's history or archeology, deal with an individual or institution connected with the county, and can address any time period.

A $250 prize is offered in each of two categories: the Walter J. Lemke Prize for best article about Washington County history with preference given for subjects outside of Fayetteville; and the Lessie Stringfellow Read Prize for best article about Fayetteville. Winners will be recognized at the society's annual meeting.

Manuscripts will be judged on their contribution to the expansion of the county's history; the originality of the subject; and, the use of primary and secondary sources. The manuscripts must be original material, and must not have been previously published; no more than 40 pages, typed, and double-spaced with endnotes included on separate, double-spaced pages, although they do not count toward the 40-page limit. The title page should contain the heading "WCHS PRIZE," the full title of the manuscript, the author's name, mailing address, telephone number, and email address.

Entries become the property of the Washington County Historical Society and will not be returned to the author. All submissions will be considered for publication in *Flashback*. The historical society reserves the right to award one or no prizes.

Copies of all entries in the Lemke Prize will be deposited with the Special Collections Department at the University of Arkansas Libraries. Entries may be mailed to Lemke Prize, Washington County Historical Society, 118 E. Dickson Street, Fayetteville, AR 72701, or e-mailed to charlie.alison@gmail.com by June 30, 2015.

For additional information on the prizes, please contact Charlie Alison at the above mailing address, at 575-6731 or at charlie.alison@gmail.com.

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